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GREAT FALLS, MONT. MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO OWING MORE THAN \$78,000 IN CHILD SUPPORT

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL EUGENE LAMB, 49, of Great Falls, Mont. pleaded guilty this afternoon before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to willfully failing to pay more than \$78,000 in court-ordered child support, in violation of the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sean C. Flynn, who is prosecuting the case, in 1999, a Placer County Superior Court ordered LAMB, formerly of Auburn, Calif., to pay \$370 per month in child support for his minor son. For the past nine years LAMB has gone to great lengths to avoid his financial obligations with respect to his child. During that period, the defendant changed residences and jobs frequently, living in at least three different states. Furthermore LAMB attempted to conceal his identity and avoid having his wages garnished and applied toward his child support obligation by using at least six different social security numbers when completing wage and tax-related documents with employers. During the past nine years, LAMB's unpaid child support obligation has grown to more than \$78,000. LAMB's steadfast refusal to abide by his legal obligations led him to flee from justice and remain a fugitive for the past five months. He surrendered to the United States Marshals Service on November 25, 2008.

"Today's guilty plea should serve notice on all deadbeat parents. Parents have an obligation to take care of their children. If you don't, our obligation is to come after you," said United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott.

"We are proud to be a part of the federal team that finally brought Michael Lamb to justice for running from his child support obligations," said Sarah Allen, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Inspector General's San Francisco Regional Office. "Parents should be held accountable for the rearing costs of their children and not the taxpayers. The San Francisco Regional Office will continue to aggressively pursue parents who run out of the state to avoid their child support obligations."

A plea agreement entered into between the Government and MICHAEL LAMB, and submitted for the Court's consideration, calls for Lamb to be sentenced to 18 months in prison. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by the Honorable Lawrence K. Karlton on March 3, 2009, at 9:15 a.m., at which time the Court will either accept or reject the agreement. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act is 2 years in prison.

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